

## **COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY**

**February 12, 2002**

**5:30 PM**

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta, Osborne, Garrity, Forest

3. Chairman Sysyn advised that the first purpose of the meeting shall be organizational in nature, and requests the Clerk to provide a brief overview regarding typical issues addressed by the Committee.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the primary responsibility of the Committee was related to state statutes dealing with traffic regulations for example stop signs, parking, etc. She noted the difference in some actions of this committee from other committees was the statutory authority of regulations being that changes had to be recommended by this Committee to the full Board; that the full Board could not override that authority, but could refer matters back to the committee for further discussion. Ms. Johnson noted that the committee also addressed parking garage issues with recommendations to the Board. The Committee was also given the public safety issues referred by the Board which may on occasion deal with Fire or Police issues.

4. Communication from Alderman Forest regarding free parking on Saturdays in the downtown area.

Alderman Forest stated apparently and I am assuming that other aldermen have received complaints but I know I have reference to being tagged on Saturday. We've had like about 25 years of free parking downtown and I know the problem I have I work Monday through Friday and I like to take my wife out to dinner on a Saturday and I don't look forward to getting a ticket at 5:30 or 6:00 at night and what I would like to do for discussion or bring it back to the full Board about trying to go back to free parking on Saturdays. The public is asking for it and I think we should do it.

Chairman Sysyn asked if that was part of an ordinance.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded that it was part of the Traffic Ordinance it is something that this committee would make a recommendation to rescind metered parking on Saturdays in the downtown areas and we would submit the report accordingly.

Alderman Garrity questioned if there was a financial impact.

Mr. Lolicata responded there is going to be a few things with that. First of all you are talking \$3,000 to \$5,000 just changing the signs over if you change them. Right now the signs are for Monday through Saturday. This ordinance has been changed now two to three times. The hours 8 to 6, 8 to 10, 8 to 8. Every time you do this I have to change the signs so I wish you would keep that in mind first of all.

Alderman Forest stated I understand that Tom.

Mr. Lolicata stated not to go into discussion with you but to go back a little because you go way back as a cop, Manchester had parking on Saturdays for years it was just the opposite. They went without for five years and now we are coming back to it again. So Manchester used to pay on Saturdays for years.

Alderman Forest stated I kind of recall the Chief Stipps actually did a study on it in the 70's or so about it and eventually it was Chief King that implemented the free parking and that's been 20 or 25 years that that's been in effect.

Mr. Lolicata stated there was a cost factor to go along with this and I just wanted you to keep that in mind, close to \$4,000 or \$5,000 anyway we are talking major sign changes.

Alderman Forest stated I understand that and I know there is a cost to the city as far as parking revenue but there is also a cost to the consumer, the consumers are coming downtown on Saturdays and everything else and it's not always on a arena night. They come down at 6:00, 6:30 and there find a \$10.00 ticket on their car.

Chairman Sysyn stated she wished to make a comment. There was free parking on non-arena nights or days on Saturdays in the parking garages, there is free parking at Pine Street, and there is free parking behind where I work.

Mr. Lolicata stated Canal has free parking on nights when there is nothing going on at Verizon.

Chairman Sysyn stated and they have Saturday day.

Mr. Lolicata responded right, and people can also park at places where there is no meters, there are a lot of ways of doing this, I am not trying to get into the for or against but the implications are a change is going to be money wise and that is your call of course.

Lt. Lussier stated he want to point out one thing, they only get the \$10 fine if they don't pay the meter. If you come down at 6:30 they pay 75 cents, as opposed to \$10, so that was one difference. For your information as far as numbers go, I pulled every Saturday since the civic center opened up, we have issued through our parking control officers who are working on Saturdays, have issued 5,166 parking tickets, that totals about \$60,695 face value of the tickets, and to date we have brought in over \$33,000 from those tickets.

Alderman Forest asked if that was just on Saturdays.

Lt. Lussier responded affirmatively.

Aldermen Guinta asked if Lt. Lussier could repeat the numbers and give him the time line he was pertaining to.

Lt. Lussier responded from November 17<sup>th</sup> the first Saturday after the grand opening of the civic center, until February 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 8AM to 8PM, 5,166 tickets issued with a face value of \$60,695 and so far to date we collected \$33,005 that will grow as people start paying more of those tickets.

Alderman Osborne asked what type of revenue it brought in on the meters.

Lt. Lussier stated you have the \$33,000 that people have paid, there is a hair over \$5,000 that they had paid for the parking control officers so well over \$25,000 so far.

Alderman Garrity asked about parking revenue, people feeding the meters, how much revenue on Saturdays.

Mr. Lolicata stated they were trying to distinguish that, it was hard to do for parking meters, but to be honest we are talking about \$1,500 just regular change. I'm trying to go by each section, we are talking about the whole city now on a Saturday that's different. I'm trying to get all of the sections collected to give us some type of an indication of what it would be for one Saturday, all sections collected. But you are talking in the vicinity of maybe \$6,000, \$7,000 or as low as \$3,000 or \$4,000 depending upon Verizon. There is no set value it's very hard to do. We don't know who is parking where right now, we have ideas but we can't give you true figures of these things.

Alderman Forest stated unfortunately a lot of the business people that I talk to downtown, and a lot of the people that were complaining about this, you know they are talking about letters being sent, the letters I asked be sent to this committee weren't sent so right now it's only me that's asking this so I'll leave it up to the Board as to what they want to do.

Alderman Guinta stated I just wanted to include some of my comments regarding parking not only on Saturday but in general. I've conducted a very informal poll with respect to my constituents in ward 3, both residents and business owners. So far what I have found is that people are objecting to paying for meters on Saturdays, and furthermore, so far people are objecting to paying during the week until 8:00 at night. I recognize that there is a revenue issue. I recognize that there is an issue regarding the amount of money that it is going to cost to alter this ordinance once again, but I think the more important issue is the people that live in downtown Manchester and the people who come to Manchester to enjoy what we have built here over the last several months and last year or two, are being turned off. There are several reports, whether you read them in the newspaper, whether you talk to people on the street, whether they are people from downtown or people coming from outside of Manchester people are very angry and very frustrated that at least on a Saturday that they have to pay. I've talked to people who say that they won't come back to Manchester, or they won't. And, I think that that's an unfair burden that we are placing on the very economic center of our city and that's the concern that I have with respect to Saturdays. I live in downtown, and if I want to park my car on Elm Street and walk up and down Elm Street and go visit

either the Currier Art Museum or if I want to go to a play at the Palace Theatre or have lunch at one of the restaurants or if I want to go to a civic center event, I have to come back to my car every two hours to pay for parking. Now the money is not the issue because it's a pretty small amount of money that you have to feed the meter, the concern or issue that I have is people don't want to interrupt the enjoyment of their Saturday to remember to check their watch to come back to find their car, put another 50 cents, or actually they have to move because there are two hour limits, so now you are forcing the consumer who is coming down and theoretically is dining at one of the new restaurants, is shopping at one of the stores, or is going to an event whether it's at the Palace or whether it's at the civic center or somewhere else, you are forcing that person essentially, we are forcing a negative on a positive. We have this wonderful resurgence of downtown and now we are trying to make some money, at least in my opinion, by fines and fees and I just don't think that's business friendly not only to the residents and to the business owners, but to the consumers outside of the city who we are asking to come here and spend money. There is a reason we built the civic center, and so far everybody I talk to loves the civic center. It's this wonderful thing now that Manchester has, and we can all point very proudly to the civic center, and the aldermen and the former mayor who sat before us and made the wise decision and some of the business leaders who made the wise decision to put the civic center in downtown Manchester, we have 8,000 people we are averaging on hockey nights. That's fantastic. And now, the other people who are coming to Manchester as a result of that civic center are being hit with a \$10 fine if they don't pay that meter. I just don't see it. At least in my opinion in who I've talked to so far regarding my constituency, I don't see it as the wisest way to invite people to come to our city. I think we can come up with other ways to generate revenues.

Chairman Sysyn requested Skip Ashoo to address the committee.

Mr. Lolicata interjected a response.

Alderman Guinta noted that this was not directed towards any one person, or entity, it was just his general comments.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have been here for 39 years with the city and believe me I know the whole situation. First thing is there was two hour meters put in there in 1972 on the side streets of downtown was for the retailers themselves to have people move so they can get in down there. People were parking all day for years and years, including the employees. Those people I here from coming into the garages, coming into downtown, is how cheap Manchester is. That's cheap. They are happy to come down here as far as paying a quarter for half an hour and the garages. I'm getting just the opposite now. I'm talking people who go long term

parking. If anybody wants to come downtown, there's ten hour meters, there's garages etc. where they can stay.

Chairman Sysyn again noted that she wanted to have Mr. Ashoo address the Committee and they were running short on time.

Mr. Lolicata noted he had just wanted to provide the history.

Alderman Guinta stated I do understand that the meters are here for a reason but I think at this point we are really taking advantage of a good thing, and I want to make sure that we don't do that and we do allow people who do want to come to Manchester to feel good about that experience.

Chairman Sysyn noted that the Police Department did get a letter thanking one of the meter maids for tagging some cars in front of a business so that they could do business cause these people were parking there. So there are two sides to the coin.

Mr. Ashoo addressed the committee stating I want to take a few minutes tonight because I think there is a misimpression about that. I am representing the Manchester Development Corporation tonight, I am there Vice-Chairman and we were part of the group that made the Verizon Wireless Arena a reality, but we also had to deal with some of the infrastructure issues around it. One of them was parking, and from April through August of this year I was able to participate in an extensive study chaired by Jay Taylor that included Traffic, Police, Intown Manchester, Chamber of Commerce, and one theme came out when we were taking a look at parking around the building. That it was first and foremost a management issue. Because the merchants downtown were petrified that people would come on event days, park at the free meters, or at night and tie them up and the restaurateurs would not have parking for their people so this whole parking plan started with the management issue. How do you manage traffic in downtown. I think those same merchants will tell you that parking in the evening and parking on Saturdays maybe is a bad idea now. But it was a response to those merchants who spoke up. There were three distinct groups of merchants who approached not only this large committee, but approached Mr. Lolicata and the Police Department, but went to the Mayor's office, went to the Economic Development Office, they were those who wanted four hour parking, those were primarily restaurateurs. Because they felt their customers couldn't come in, have a drink, have a dinner and get out of there in a two hour time span. And we had the retailers who wanted two hour parking, no more. And they wanted people to come in, park for two hours and get out so there would be a turnover in their stores, and then we had the group of merchants who wanted parking the way it was. So the parking plan that's there now, revenue aside, is an effort to manage parking, and I think that what we

said all along has become true. There is more parking than we need. There probably isn't a reason to have parking enforcement on nights and weekends, but we haven't finished a full season with the arena yet, so as far as event nights, we don't really cost or benefit analysis yet. I think some of those figures are going to be coming out very shortly so I'd ask you to listen very carefully to the numbers that come out from the meters, from enforcement, and see what's actually happening as a result of the Verizon Wireless Arena, and then I think we can make some real solid recommendations.

Chairman Sysyn recognized former Mayor Wieczorek.

Former Mayor Wieczorek stated having been around here and having been a part of the important things that are happening in the downtown I do talk to a lot of people. I see a lot of things happening out here and I can tell you that there are an awful lot of people that are unhappy. I am not going to reiterate what Skip said because obviously it is hard to please everybody. But what you have to do is to try to please as many people as you can. What I find very disturbing is the number of people that come to the city, some of them for the very first time, and I think they are treated very rudely by our parking situation and that's sad. Because we want to encourage people to come here rather than discourage them and have them say I am never going to come here again. That's not how you build success. I here this all up and down Elm Street. I here it when I'm at the arena, I'm a season ticket holder so I'm there a lot. And I here this from the folks that are there. And I know there is no easy solution to it. Because I know what happened when Elm Street disappeared and it went out to the mall it was because of parking. Because you had an easy place to park and it was not going to be a problem. But now it is a problem in here and you are going to have to do something to get a group together that is going to take a good long look at this and decide how Manchester is going to become a friendly city to the people that come to our community. If we don't I think we are going to destroy what we are doing. When we got the Verizon Wireless Arena I said it's okay to steal an egg, but let's not kill the goose. And this is what I am afraid is happening here. If you could get some people together so you can decide what the very best program is going to be to satisfy as many people as you can, the merchants, the people that like to go to the restaurants that we have, the people that go to the arena, you can go a long way toward making this a friendly city. Every time I go to the arena and I see the thousands of people coming across Elm Street, I can't tell you how good it makes me feel. Because, when we were first talking about building the arena every report we had said it was going to be a success. Well I can tell you that it has exceeded even my fondest expectations, that this is a huge success for Manchester. And every time I'm at the arena I see people telling me that this is the most wonderful thing that ever happened in this area. So please come up with something that is going to treat these people decently when they come to our community. There are other

things here for them to see, but if we are going to treat and abuse them when they are here they are not going to come back to see the other things that we have. We are trying to get the millyard going with the museum and all the things that are there, let's try to make this city a little more friendly to people that are going to be using it. Thank you very much, I know all of you are interested in making sure that happens and it's not an easy problem for you to solve but work at it and get some other help if you need help to come up with ideas on what to do and hopefully we'll get it solved.

Aldermen Forest moved to rescind the Saturday meter parking and make it free parking. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with none recorded in opposition.

Chairman Sysyn next addressed item #7 of the agenda.

7. Communications requesting temporary closure of streets, changes in parking regulations and use of the Arms Park for events as follows:
  - a) St. Patrick's Day Parade scheduled for Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> (to include painting of shamrocks on roadway) – Dan O'Neil
  - b) 1<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Weekend fireworks display scheduled for Sunday, May 26, 2002 (rain date May 27)-WGIR
  - c) 5<sup>th</sup> Cruising Downtown scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2002
  - d) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Seals Walk scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2002 (new date being reviewed – Police to report)
  - e) YMCA 5K Road Race scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2002
  - f) Manchester MS Walk scheduled for April 20, 2002

The clerk noted that Easter Seals had changed their date to June 20<sup>th</sup>, a Thursday evening. Lt. Lussier noted that they were no longer requesting use of Arms Park, they were using Veterans Park on Elm Street and with some reduction it would work.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to approve the requests, with changes noted, subject to the review and approval of the Police, Traffic, Fire, and City Clerk Departments with any changes required by such departments.



8. Chairman Sysyn advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

**STOP SIGNS:**

On Silver St. at Hall St. SWC (3-way stop)

Alderman Shea

On Laurel St. at Pine St. NEC

Alderman Levasseur

On Somerville St. at Belmont St. NEC, SWC (4-way stop sign)

Alderman Shea

On Duncan Farms Rd. at Goffstown Rd. SEC

Alderman Forest

On S. Cypress St. at Vinton St., NWC

Alderman Shea

On S. Wilson St. at Parkview Ave. NWC

Alderman Shea

On Byledge Rd. at Ledgewood Rd. SEC

On Beech St. at Ledgewood Rd. NWC

Alderman Wihby (emergency)

On Grand Ave. at Williard St. SWC

Alderman Osborne

**NO PARKING:**

On Exeter Ave., west side, from a point 305 feet south of Hayward St. to a point 45 feet south

Alderman Shea

On Hanover St., south side, from Woodland Ave. to Page St.

Alderman Pinard

On Zachary Rd., north side, from East Industrial Park Dr. to a point 735 feet easterly

Alderman Pinard

On Blucher St., west side, from Conant St. to a point 65 feet north

Alderman Thibault

On Harvard St., both sides, from a point 130 feet east of Maple St. to the dead end  
Alderman Shea

On Harvard South Back Street, both sides, from Wilson St. to the dead end  
Alderman Shea (emergency)

On Cedar St., south side, from Canton St. to a point 150 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

On S. Elm St., west side, from a point 120 feet north of Wyoming Ave. to West Oakwood Ave.  
Police Dept.

**NO PARKING:**

On Lowell St., south side, from Ash St. to Maple St.  
Alderman Sysyn

On S. Elm St., east side, from Wyoming Ave. to the dead end  
Police Dept.

On Oakwood Ave., south side, from the dead-end to a point 50 feet east  
Alderman Garrity

On Cedar St., north side from a point 70 feet west of Wilson St. to a point 25 feet west  
Alderman Osborne

On Norris St., both sides, from Somerville St. to a point 70 feet north  
Alderman Shea

On Dutton St., east side, from Amherst St. to a point 130 feet north  
Alderman Sysyn

On O'Malley St., south side, from a point 30 feet west of Trahan St. to a point 65 feet east  
Alderman Garrity

On Brown Ave., east side, from a point 20 feet south of O'Malley St. to a point 75 feet north  
Alderman Garrity

On Belmont St., east side, from Massabesic St. to a point 110 feet south  
Alderman Osborne

On Beech St., west side, from Valley Southback St. to Hayward St.  
Alderman Osborne

On Wilson St., west side, from Laurel Southback St. to Central St.  
Alderman Osborne

**PARKING 15 MINUTES 8AM-6PM:**

On Lowell St., north side, from Maple westback Street to Ash St.  
Alderman Sysyn

**NO PARKING 8AM-3PM MON-FRI DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

On Cedar St., south side, from Wilson St. to a point 180 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND NO PARKING:**

On Cedar St., south side, from Wilson St. to a point 180 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

On Lowell St., south side, from Ash St. to Nashua St.  
Alderman Sysyn

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:**

On Lake Ave., north side, from a point 135 feet east of Union St. to a point  
25 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE 8AM-5PM MON-SAT:**

On Pine St., east side, from a point 45 feet north of Londonderry Lane to a  
point 25 feet north  
Alderman Guinta

On Kosciuszko St., east side, from a point 95 feet south of Bridge St. to a  
point 25 feet south (removal of meter 426)  
Alderman Guinta

**NO TRUCKS:**

On Cedar St. from Maple St. to Hall St.  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND NO TRUCKS:**

On Cedar St. from Lincoln St. to Wilson St.  
Alderman Osborne

**TRAFFIC SIGNALS:**

Hooksett Rd. and Campbell St. Crosbie St. (install an eastbound right bi  
modal signal – yellow right arrow – green right arrow)  
Alderman Wihby

**HANDICAP PARKING ONLY:**

On Manchester St., south side, from Chestnut St. to a point 25 feet east  
Alderman Levasseur

**PARKING FOR POLICE VEHICLES ONLY:**

On Manchester St., south side, from a point 25 feet east of Chestnut St. to a  
point 90 feet east  
Alderman Levasseur

**RESCIND PARKING FOR POLICE VEHICLES ONLY:**

On Merrimack St., south side, from a point 25 feet east of Chestnut St. to a  
point 90 feet east  
Alderman Levasseur

**PARKING ½ HOUR (8AM-6PM MON-FRI):**

On Cartier St., east side, from a point 295 feet north of Putnam St. to a  
point 100 feet northerly  
Alderman Thibault

**PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM MON-SAT:**

On Laurel St., south side, from Beech St. to a point 55 feet east  
Alderman Sysyn

**PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM MON-SAT:**

On Canton St., east side, from Auburn St. to Spruce St.  
Alderman Osborne

On Elm St., east side, from Hayward St. to Merrill St.  
Alderman Guinta

**PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-9PM 7 DAYS:**

On Pine St., east side, from Brook St. to a point 65 feet north  
Alderman Guinta (emergency)

**RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM:**

On Laurel St., north side from Beech St., to a point 110 feet east  
Alderman Sysyn

**RESCIND NO PARKING:**

On Laurel St., south side, from Beech St. to a point 65 feet east  
Alderman Sysyn

Mr. Lolicata noted that he had an addition to the listing as follows:

**BACK UP STOP SIGN**

On South Hall and Parkview, NEC/SWC

In response to questions from Alderman Forest, Mr. Lolicata noted that these were back up stop signs; that there were stop signs at the intersection and this would provide one on each side so people could see them.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to approve the Traffic Department agenda items with the addition.

9. Communication from Carol-Ann Bernier regarding the crosswalk between Welch Avenue and Cheney Place.

Alderman Garrity advised that this item had been addressed at a neighborhood meeting the previous evening. Mr. Lolicata concurred advising it was going to be an enhancement of the crosswalk.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to receive and file the communication.

10. Communication from Gail Nessel Colglazier, Director of the Manchester Historic Association, requesting permission to install directional signage for the Millyard Museum at several locations in the City.

11. Communication from Daniel Curtis regarding the parking problem on Notre Dame Avenue between Wayne and Putnam Streets.
12. Communication from John B. Harvey introducing himself as the principal broker for The Real Estate Specialists and requesting that the City look into the possibility of removing a no U-turn sign near their location at 1031 Gold Street.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to refer these communications to the Traffic and Police Departments for review and report.

13. Communication from Paul Konieczka, of CLD Consulting Engineers requesting an opportunity to discuss the proposed conversion of Winston Street to a two-way street with associated signalization of its intersection with Brown Avenue.

Mr. Ken Rhodes of CLD Consulting Engineers addressed the committee advising that their purpose was to get the process started. We will be working in close conjunction with Mr. Lolicata and the Highway Department, and this is part of the site plan application (before Planning). Essentially we have come up between 293 and the Airport Road there are five lighted intersections at this point. Presently Winston Street is one way as you know to the west into the Industrial Park, Raymond Street is out of the Industrial Park. There is probably and we will go through some of these reasons with the Planning Board, we have an opportunity at this particular point to signalize the intersection with Winston Street and provide more access in and out of that Industrial park. There are good reasons why that might want to occur although the zoning down in the Industrial Park has not changed the new zoning ordinance does allow for a much higher variety of uses that will provide more traffic in that area and to the extent that there are a number of changes going on on Brown Avenue that this light could tie into in the long term it could work out very well. These include some changes that are currently starting construction at exit 2, you know that the airport road is coming through Goffs Falls Road obviously has undergone some lane changes in the recent time frame and there is a project at Highway right now to improve the laneage between airport road and Goffs Fall Road. It is part of a site plan that has been the impedous to do this. We will go through the site plan process and bring this up to you at the appropriate time, but we did want to let you know that it is in play.

Alderman Forest asked if Winston Street was the street that led down by the softball park.

Mr. Rhodes responded no; that the junior deb fields were further down, noting that Winston Street was the street by McDonalds that turned in and goes to the water treatment plant.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to table this item.

The clerk noted that the Traffic Department and Traffic Division of the Police Department would be expected to make a report when that comes back as well.

Chairman Sysyn addressed items 5 and 6 together:

5. Request from Alderman Gatsas that both Beech and Maple Streets be returned to two-way streets.
6. Communication from Felix M. Torres, Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, regarding the proposal to convert Maple and Beech streets into two-way streets.

Deputy Chief Duffey introduced himself noting that this was far too important a subject to be taken up in a brief period of time, but what he wanted to tell them was whatever was done, the Police Department has wanted to change these streets going way back. The Chief has been in favor of that. The Police Department has, but the point I want to leave you with tonight is we are writing more and more summons all the time. There is a finite limit as to what enforcement can do. And it kind of goes in concert with some of the remarks made earlier with respect to parking. We can't invite people in the city and give them tickets one way or the other there is a finite limit to what enforcement can do, there is a finite limit to what education can do. We need some engineering help to get the job done. Last year we wrote 9% more speeding tickets than we did the year before and we had 6% more accidents. We need help. This is a step perhaps to be looked at but I would suggest it would need more time than can be allocated tonight for this very important subject.

Chairman Sysyn concurred noting that perhaps it should be referred to the traffic department.

Deputy Clerk Johnson suggested, going back historically a little, perhaps they could also ask Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission who has conducted traffic studies as well, and the Traffic and Police Departments to come in and give a presentation to the committee at a special time that allotted for it.

Alderman Osborne moved to table these items pending review by the Traffic Department, Police Department, and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission for presentation at a later date. Mr. Lolicata was requested to coordinate the parties involved with whomever was deemed appropriate. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

14. Discussion of Revenue allocation at the Center of NH Garage submitted by Traffic Department.

Mr. Lolicata requested this item be tabled pending availability of staff who were presently ill.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that this item could just be resubmitted at the next meeting. Members so concurred.

15. Copy of a communication from Alderman Sysyn to Mr. David Pitts of Semperfi Power Supply, Inc. responding to his inquiry regarding parking in the area of his business.

Chairman Sysyn noted that Mr. Pitts could not attend this evening and that this item should also be deferred to the next meeting. Members so concurred.

16. Communication and petition from Stephanie Lewry, Intown Manchester, requesting evening residential parking in the parking garage on Kosciuszko Street.



Mr. Lolicata noted that there were two garages there, one was a private garage and one was public which had 66 spaces permit parking during the day, at night time it was opened to anybody which was utilized mostly by the people downtown the Brimmer and clubs in the area. Monday through Friday up to 5PM was permit parking, and then it was open to the public at night; that it was an open garage after 5:30.

Alderman Sysyn noted that the reason they came in with this was that if the residents park in the parking garage it would free up the spaces on the street to go to the Brimmer.

Mr. Lolicata noted that at 5:15, 5:30 they start loading up right off the bat. They go downtown to eat and get the first spot they can, so it was filled pretty quickly.

Ms. Jennifer Fitch of Intown Manchester addressed the committee stating that the letter was written referencing a petition that Susan Thibault from the Chestnut Quilter submitted and she was present tonight to speak to the petition as well. Basically it was what you've already discussed the idea is that the garage is being utilized by evening patrons of businesses at no charge because the garage is not monitored during the evening hours. Right now it is being used essentially by intoxicated persons who I guess tend to vandalize the garage or abuse the facility and if it could be translated to residents, resident parking only in the evening 6 PM to 7:30 AM it would solve two problems.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that if they were going to do a resident parking that required a different type of an ordinance change, they could establish it as permit parking under the garage status where anybody can get a permit, not just residents and that does not have to go through the same process. I don't know if that's a difficulty for the Traffic Department, it's not like Canal Street where they have a monitor there.

Mr. Lolicata stated there was no monitoring down there.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that she was not objecting to it, or saying it could not be done it's just a different process, and she just wanted to make people aware of that. It would have to go through a real ordinance change, I would have to write a special ordinance for you, but it can be done. It's not something that is going to happen in one meeting of the Board.

Chairman Sysyn noted that if you make it just for residents and people are coming here from out of town that want to go in there then you are discriminating against them from parking there.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that what you would do would be to create another residential zone like you do in the downtown area you have resident parking in certain areas. The way you could do it under the ordinance would be actually to change your ordinance and establish some resident parking as you do in the Merrimack area, you would establish another zone. So they would have to go and get a residential parking permit from the ordinance violations bureau and they would have a sticker system and it would also be open to the public.

Susan Thibault addressed the committee stating my family and I own the Chestnut Quilter on Lowell and Chestnut, it's not so much for the specific resident parking it's for the low income all around us that can't afford the \$5.00 for parking in the very lot that they have been using for the last ten or fifteen years which is in front of St. Joseph's Cathedral. It's more that \$5.00 on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday is outrageous for these people two and times a month, which is \$15 to \$45 a month, because during the winter it causes hardship with the odd/even sides of the street and there is no place to put any cars and if somebody were to drive in at 1:00 on a Thursday they have to pay \$5 for their car even though it's residents, this would eliminate that. These people who have been in the city and it's not discriminating the people that are out of the city how about the people who are in the city.

Alderman Guinta stated now I am confused. Are you talking about people who are patroning your business.

Ms. Thibault responded no, well there is two issues, I didn't agree with your vote anyway on the first one because I do have a business on a Saturday, although I am not on Elm Street it certainly does help me tremendously to have everybody that parks there all day long to move their cars and I'm not on Elm but I'm one block off. And, I'm sorry I disagree, and my business can prove it, and to drop a quarter in the meter is certainly, I'm I have had no complaints, and I'm just grateful that everybody that works at Granite State Credit Union or works at all these other places finally moved their cars instead of in front of my shop.

Alderman Guinta stated I feel I should respond to that, and then I want to get back to this specific issue.

Ms. Thibault stated my question was the other one too when you said you want to come down to Manchester and spend the day walking downtown and you have to put your quarter in and it is not a money issue. If it wasn't a money issue then why aren't you in one of the lots that are available for \$3 to \$5 a day if it's not a money issue and spend all day in the lot.

Alderman Guinta stated my purpose is to invite people in Manchester, in New Hampshire and in New England to come to Manchester. I don't want to prohibit people to come to our city and enjoy our city by asking them to pay for it. I've lived in Worcester, Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts, my wife is from Portland, Maine, my sister-in-law lives in Burlington, Vermont and I've actually been to every one of these cities, and I've also been to Providence, Rhode Island. I've been to each one of these cities in the last six months. Even before I was an alderman here, because I do want to take into consideration everybody's concerns regarding parking. And my feeling regarding that issue is that I would like to see a city that's inviting to its customers, which includes residents of the city, residents of the state, and people outside of New England. My feeling is that we can do a better job as a city to invite people to Manchester and what we are doing to some people is ticketing them. I'm not saying it's hard to put money into a meter, it's very easy I do that. But what I would like to see is a more friendly environment where we can invite people to the city, partake in what we have built here, rather than have them leave our city with a bad taste in their mouth because they got a \$10 ticket. Now, I understand that it is their responsibility to pay a meter, but I think we are friendly people in Manchester, and we are friendly people in the state of New Hampshire and I have a concern when I can go to Boston, Massachusetts, which is a city ten times the size of Manchester, and I don't have to pay to park in Boston. I don't have to pay at all actually there are several parts in the city of Boston where you don't have to pay for parking at all. So my issue with the parking is I want to be inviting. I don't want to stop people from partaking in what has been built in this city. If you disagree I respect your disagreement. I think that the division that the people have for this city is to make it a very collective kind of place where people can enjoy.

Ms. Thibault stated I understand that too but also I've been to all those cities and I can tell you when you are in downtown Boston, or any of these other places they do in fact have metered parking or resident parking around the areas and there are free places a block or two away, I'm not disagreeing with that at all.

Alderman Guinta asked if there was a negative to having people park free in our city on Saturdays.

Ms. Thibault responded no, there is a negative to having somebody that is not located on Elm Street park in front of their business all day long, that is a very big negative.

Alderman Guinta stated he agreed that was an issue and he believed people had testified regarding that issue, noting they were discussing an issue that had already been voted on.

Alderman Guinta addressed the subject at hand stating I am specifically trying to understand the issue that's before us now. They are patrons or they are not?

Ms. Thibault responded no they are not patrons of mine they just live upstairs there is roughly my block alone I believe there is 52 small low income units. Around the area there are several low income units and it's really gotten hard with the Thursday, Friday Saturday parking in the lot in front of St. Joe's and it causes hardship for them. And, there is a free lot right there on Koziasko, it's too bad the residents around the area that have been here for a long time cannot just like park there and that's the issue.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted there were two things that Mr. Lolicata might be able to provide you some information on regarding the issue, one would how residential permit parking works first of all, and the lot she is referring to in the \$5 is one of the civic center lots and I'm not sure whether that one is producing revenue or not and perhaps Mr. Lolicata can address that for you as well.

Mr. Lolicata stated first of all she was referring to the Hartnett Lot and when Verizon's going they charge \$5, when they are not it's free or pay the meters. There is also free parking in the Victory Garage from 8PM to 6AM. There is also free parking in Pearl Street Parking Lot on the other side of them one block away. The only thing I'm afraid of with this particular garage, these people have to be out by 6 in the morning because there is permit parking coming in. There is only 66 spaces there. They have the Pearl Street Lot and the garage where they can park free from 10 to 6 and the Hartnett when there is nothing going on at Verizon, but I would be very reluctant to use the requested garage because Monday through Friday by 7:00 AM people are there paying for spots and there is only 66 of them in that garage and I wouldn't know how to monitor them to be honest with you, and enforcing it would be another issue.

Alderman Forest asked about the Pearl Street Lot, noting they don't tag there until 8 in the morning.

Mr. Lolicata stated they do not tag there anymore, only in snow emergencies they have to be out, and after its cleared people can go back in again.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that on Saturdays, or there are meters there and when they are active those are enforced, I don't think Mr. Lolicata understood the question.

Mr. Lolicata stated yes, during the daytime up to 5:00.

Alderman Forest stated its permit parking there I didn't realize they had taken the meters out.

Mr. Lolicata stated they are leased at 6:00 in the morning there are 200 to 300 spaces that are full over at Pearl but at the other one you are only talking about 66.

Alderman Forest commented that a lot of the city lots now are permit parking including the Federal Lot, they are now permit parking there are no more meters in there.

Mr. Lolicata stated that's right.

Alderman Guinta moved to table this item, and the purpose of that is so I could specifically sit down with Tom to go over some of these before we make any changes, I'd like to have a more informed committee. Alderman Osborne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

17. Communication from Mary Shutts, volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA, regarding parking regulations.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted the communication was regarding metered parking in the evening hours because the meters are being enforced until 8PM, and Ms. Shutts appeared to be looking for volunteer permits or to have it rescinded.

Mr. Lolicata noted that there was long term parking right across the street from there, the garage, and ten hour meters on Chestnut Street, a parking lot at Hartnett.

Chairman Sysyn stated they should be encouraged to use the garages because I don't think we advertise our garages enough. I think we need to do a better job of PR with the garages.

Alderman Guinta moved to receive and file the communication with the caveat that he would go to the YWCA and speak with the people specifically to identify the options that are in existence and in turn to obtain any additional concerns that they may have that I would bring back to the Committee. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

18. Communication from Alderman Vaillancourt regarding a petition from residents of the Pepperidge/Sherwood/Westwood Drive area requesting additional speed bumps in the area.
19. Petition from residents of Oakland Avenue requesting additional measures to control vehicular speed on Oakland Avenue (i.e., four-way stop signs at various intersections.)

After brief discussion, it was concurred to leave these items on the table and allow Committee members to become familiar with the requests.

Communication from Merchants Automotive requesting utilization of the Rubenstein Parking Lot for the credit union pre-owned automotive sale.

Mr. Lolicata stated the lot was not filled it was available those dates, he had no problems with it.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta it was voted to approve the request subject to the approval of Traffic, Police, Fire and the City Clerk.

Alderman Guinta stated I assume everybody's received the 2001 ward crime report from the Police Department and I don't know if everyone has had a chance to review it yet, but I have and Ward 3 has an inordinate – 25 percent of the crime in the City is taking place in Ward 3. What I would like to do is talk to this Committee, I personally will be meeting with the Police Chief to discuss this, but I thought that I could utilize this Committee.

In response to question Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that this was as the Public Safety Committee issue.

Alderman Guinta asked if it was possible for this Committee to create or appoint a Committee to review this issue and meet with the Police Department and see what we can do about reducing the crime in Ward 3 specifically.

In response to question from Chairman Sysyn regarding the Board Chairman putting together a special committee, Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that it may be better for the Clerk's office to work with Alderman Guinta and put an official letter into the Committee if he so desired, and in the meantime I believe his sitting down with the Chief is probably a good place to begin anyway, but we will be happy to work with him and put something together and put it before the Committee.

Alderman Guinta commented that he would do that.

Chairman Sysyn noted that they had free parking on Elm Street at all the meters on Sunday and when there is an event the parking garages have help coming in to charge \$5 or whatever, and they are bringing help in and they are not getting enough.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that this could be encompassed with the other revenue issue Mr. Lolicata was bringing back at the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee